Northeastern University
Center for Atypical Language Interpreting

Final Reflection Activity — "My Growth as a Language Observer"

Purpose
This reflection helps students step back from accuracy or perfection and recognize how their **attention, mindset, and choices** are developing over time. The goal is to connect observation skills with ethical awareness and respect for language variation.

When to Use

- End of a lesson using language samples
- End of a unit or semester
- After repeating the same video later in the term

Time
5–15 minutes

Student Directions (Written or Signed Reflection)

Part 1 — Noticing Growth

- What do you notice now that you might not have noticed earlier in the course?
- What visual or language features are easier for you to recognize today?

Part 2 — Receptive Resilience

- Describe a moment when you did **not** fully understand but stayed engaged anyway.
- What helped you continue rather than give up?

Part 3 — Ethical Awareness

- When watching language that felt unfamiliar, how did you respond internally?
- What choices helped you remain respectful and curious rather than judgmental?

Part 4 — Respect for Personal Experience

- What did this language sample teach you about human variation in communication?
- What assumptions, if any, did you notice and reconsider?

Part 5 — Looking Forward (interpreting focused)

- How do you think the way you observe language now will influence how you show up in future interactions or interpreting situations?
- What is one intention you want to carry forward when encountering new signing styles?

Optional Closing Prompt (Whole Class or Small Groups)

> "One thing I want to remember when I encounter unfamiliar language is…"

Students may share verbally, in sign, or submit privately.

Instructor Notes

- Emphasize **growth over correctness**.
- Accept brief or visual responses for newer learners.
- This is not graded for accuracy; it is a **self-awareness checkpoint**.
- Repeating this reflection later in the term helps students see their own development.

Key Message for Students:
These language samples are not tests of mastery. They are opportunities to practice noticing, build resilience, strengthen ethical decision-making, and deepen respect for language variation and personal experience. How you learn to engage with variation now shapes how you will show up as an interpreter later.

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